



**European Committee
of the Regions**



*DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS
Secretaría de Estado de Presupuestos y Gastos*

Briefing on the future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020

"Presentation of the Spanish Regions Position"

Programme

21 March 2018 - 11.00 – 13.00

European Committee of the Regions - Room JDE 52

Rue Belliard 99-101

Brussels

Cohesion policy is the main European investment policy to achieve the EU Treaty objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion. In doing so, cohesion policy has a clear added value in creating jobs, sustainable growth and modern infrastructure, overcoming structural barriers, boosting human capital and improving the quality of life for all citizens across the EU.

Within the context of the ongoing debate on the future of cohesion policy beyond 2020, numerous important actors have already expressed their view on this important matter. The Spanish common position on cohesion policy beyond 2020 has been agreed between the national government and the autonomous communities. The European Committee of the Regions took its position with the adoption of its opinion on "The future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020" on 11 May 2017, which was prepared by rapporteur Michael Schneider, State Secretary and Representative of the Land of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federal Government.

Coinciding with the celebrations of the EU cohesion policy 30th anniversary, this briefing session will provide an opportunity to present both the position of Spain and the European Committee of the Regions and to discuss them with an interested audience in Brussels. This forms part of the activities of the European Committee of the Regions promoting the #CohesionAlliance for a strong, effective and more visible cohesion policy beyond 2020.

Interpretation arrangements: *Spanish, English and German*

11.00 – 11.15 Registration

11.15 – 11.30 Welcome and Opening statements

- **Dr. Michael Schneider**, CoR rapporteur on "The future of Cohesion Policy beyond 2020", "The views of the European Committee of the Regions on the future of cohesion policy"

11.30 – 12.30 Presentation of the common position agreed by the Spanish Autonomous Communities and Cities and the Directorate General of European Funds

- **Jorge García Reig**, Director General of Community Funds, Ministry of Finance (Spain), "The impact of EU Cohesion policy in Spain"

Common Position:

- **HORIZONTAL ELEMENTS OF COHESION POLICY**
Joan Calabuig, Regional Government Delegate for the European Union and Foreign Affairs, Comunidad Valenciana Region.
- **ELEMENTS OF COHESION POLICY TO MAINTAIN**
Juan Jose Sota, Regional Minister on Economy, Finances and Employment, Cantabria Region.
- **ELEMENTS OF COHESION POLICY TO REVISE**
Jesús Gamallo, Director General for External Relations with the European Union, Galicia Region.

12.30 – 12.45 Reaction from the European Commission

- **Nicola De Michelis**, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Crețu

12.45 – 13.00 Discussion with the audience